



City gets top rating for health inspections

Minneapolis has been conducting health inspections longer than any other jurisdiction in Minnesota, including the state. Health inspectors examine every grocery store, restaurant, food vendor, farmers market, food truck, public swimming pool and tattoo parlor in the city. The Minnesota Department of Health recently gave the City of Minneapolis the highest score available for its health inspection programs overseeing food, lodging and pool safety. This is a complete turnaround after MDH gave the City's inspection programs an 'unsatisfactory' rating after a 2010 audit (audits with other municipalities have resulted in a state takeover of their inspection programs).

In response to the 2010 audit, the City completely overhauled its program by:

- Moving health inspections to a new home in the Minneapolis Health Department (health department).
- Adding new inspectors, supervisors and support staff.
- Increasing training and oversight.
- Revising ordinances and policies.
- Revamping protocols on inspections, report writing and scheduling.

Along with updating food ordinances that conflicted with state statutes and food code, the health department has also developed partnerships with the Latino and Somali communities to build their capacity for better food management. The Somali community highlighted the need for Certified Food Manager (CFM) classes taught in the Somali language so they could be compliant with the Minnesota Food Code. In response, the health department contracted with a food safety educator to teach CFM classes in Somali. (Minneapolis is believed to be the first city in the nation to offer this class in Somali)

The health department also created a peer inspection program to promote consistency among health inspectors through monthly joint inspections, which both Hennepin County and state inspectors conduct as part of their practice. In addition, once a month Minneapolis inspectors hold meetings to resolve inspection issues and address questions about the food code while strengthening their understanding of the code. For more information about the Food, Lodging and Pool inspection program, please contact Dan Huff at 612-673-5863 or daniel.huff@minneapolismn.gov.

Minneapolis celebrates Public Health Week



Pillsbury School students and Mayor Betsy Hodges gathered to honor volunteer Leroy Leftwich for encouraging them to bike and ski.

"Healthy Where You Are" was the theme for this year's Public Health Week, April 3-9. To showcase public health at work in the community, the following Public Health Heroes were recognized for achieving Minneapolis Health Department goals.

- **A Healthy Start to Life and Learning: Hennepin County's HealthCare for the Homeless** staff Naomi Windham, Emily Thor and Erin Sutton team up to provide specialized, culturally-appropriate health education to women and children living in family homeless shelters.
- **A Healthy Place to Live: AEON**, a non-profit housing developer and provider, that partnered with HOPE Communities and others to build The Rose, a healthy, energy efficient and affordable apartment complex in the Phillips neighborhood.

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Public Health Week continued

Thriving Youth and Young Adults:

- **Leroy Leftwich** for his outstanding volunteer work at Pillsbury Elementary School working with low-income minority and immigrant students to introduce them to biking and cross-country skiing.
- **Team Tubman's Inspiring Youth program** staff Tamara Stark, Hans Olson, Patricia Branden-Adan and Stephanie Sakes for providing trauma-informed, strengths-based case management to Minneapolis youth ages 10 to 17 who have experienced, or are at risk of experiencing, violence and exploitation.

Healthy Weight and Smoke-Free Living:

- **Clare Housing** for their work to protect the health of their residents and community by implementing a smoke-free policy in their three apartment complexes and four care homes protecting 146 vulnerable Minneapolis residents from the negative health effects of second and third-hand smoke exposure.
- **Minneapolis American Indian Center's Mary LaGarde** was honored for implementing a healthy beverage policy in response to increased obesity-related health diseases and the impact of sugary drink consumption in the American Indian community.

Safe places to eat, swim and stay: **Farhiya Farah and Bette Packer** for removing hurdles faced by Somali-speaking operators of restaurants and other food establishments by teaching food safety classes in Somali and administering a state exam to become a certified food manager.

A Healthy Environment: **Little Earth of United Tribes** housing community for starting a community farm to grow fresh, healthy food in partnership with the Shakopee Mdewakanton Sioux Community and the health department. Little Earth evaluated the effectiveness of a biochar-compost mix and traditional gardening method called Three Sisters to increase crop yields.

A Strong Urban Public Health Infrastructure: **Bicultural Active Living Lifestyle (BALL)** is a public education campaign to address educational, environmental, food and health disparities. BALL is organized by the Multi-Cultural Community Alliance, a coalition of culturally and linguistically-appropriate community agencies serving people of color.

In addition to recognizing these Public Health Heroes, health department staff organized Five Days to a Healthier You for City employees and community members. Each day featured a different themed event emphasizing all aspects of health such as a mindfulness session, salsa dance class, and a step-count contest. For more information about the City's Public Health Week, contact Justo Garcia at 612-673-3619 or justo.garcia@minneapolismn.gov.

URBAN HEALTH AGENDA

Youth lead efforts on healthy sexuality

In April, Minneapolis youth led two projects with community-based organizations to address healthy sexuality and inequities in sexually transmitted infections (STI) among youth from communities of color. Sharp racial inequities persist in Minneapolis among those diagnosed with an STI: Despite youth of color representing 49 percent of young people of Minneapolis, they receive 88 percent of chlamydia and 91 percent of gonorrhea diagnoses.

Working separately with Community Restoring Urban Youth Sexual Health (CRUSH) and Youthprise, youth researchers engaged minority youth to address ways to reduce disparities in STI rates. CRUSH is a Minneapolis-based partnership of clinics, youth-serving organizations and community members, while Youthprise engages youth in doing research to bring young peoples' perspectives and energy to important issues.

Following advocacy by CRUSH and the Minnesota Chlamydia Partnership (MCP), Governor Mark Dayton proclaimed April 12, 2016, as STI Testing Day across Minnesota. In observance of the day, CRUSH and MCP coordinated free and low-cost STI education, testing and treatment. The health department mentored clinics to create walk in, youth-friendly, and LGBTQ-inclusive experiences. Across the state, youth-led activities focused on building the capacity of health care systems to serve

youth, especially those no longer attending high school. Many clinics piloted new services and drop-in models. With the feedback being overwhelmingly positive, partners are looking at applying lessons learned to create more youth-oriented clinics and participation in the 2017 STI Testing Day.

On April 18, youth presented the STI project findings to the Minneapolis City Council's Health, Environment and Community Engagement Committee. The project was conducted in partnership with the health department which trained the youth on sexually transmitted infections and in epidemiology and public health practices. Youth researchers interviewed over 100 young people to better understand issues of individual perceptions, attitudes and behaviors around sexual health and social concerns that drive population health.

Those interviewed expressed that support is needed for sexuality education at home and in the community, especially on the streets. Access to no-cost or low-cost condoms, testing and treatment were requested, especially at community-based locations. Specific suggestions were made that health education should include topics on pleasure, emotional/mental health, identity, specific acts, personal testimonies, statistics and epidemiology. For more information, contact Mageen Caines at 612-673-2993 or mageen.caines@minneapolismn.gov.

HEALTHY CITY UPDATES

Minneapolis' leading causes of death

A new data brief on the leading causes of death among Minneapolis residents from 2005-2014 is now available on the [health department's web site](#). The brief compares the 15 leading causes of death in Minneapolis to national rates and provides comparisons by sex/gender, age and race/ethnicity. Highlights of the report: the top three causes of death in 2014 were cancer, heart disease and accidents; deaths by homicide were 6.7 times higher among men than women; more than one-quarter of infant deaths were attributable to congenital birth defects.

Public health accreditation site visit completed

The health department has completed a two-day site visit with a review team from the Public Health Accreditation Board (PHAB). The team provided constructive feedback with the following highlights:

Overall, the health department is:

- Authentic, dedicated, caring and competent.
- Both planful and opportunistic with an entrepreneurial spirit.
- Deliberate in helping to build capacity in our communities.
- A trusted source of needed data.

Health department strengths include:

- Commitment to cultural competence.
- Community engagement across the department.
- Research and evaluation is an asset for internal uses and engagement with the community.

Several community partners gathered to talk about their working relationship with the health department and noted that staff are:

- Early adopters.
- Interested in new ideas.
- Creative and positive.
- True collaborators with authentic partnerships and relationships.

Opportunities for growth include:

- Being more intentional about meeting staff training needs, especially related to quality improvement.
- Strengthening department branding.
- Strengthening internal assessment and reflection through customer and stakeholder surveys.

A final decision on the department's PHAB accreditation status will be received in August.

Youth Violence Prevention Week

From March 31 to April 9, Minneapolis celebrated National Youth Violence Prevention Week with the health department collaborating with youth-serving agencies from across the city to provide a wide range of activities to increase public awareness around youth violence. Highlights from the week included a girls' symposium; the Bridges to Manhood Conference on April 1 for

young men and boys of color; and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament.

Testing 25 city lots for potential community gardens

Many health disparities can be traced to poor nutrition and the difficulty in obtaining good, fresh food. While urban farming can help close that gap, there is limited land in the city and it is often unsuitable for gardening due to environmental contaminants from past industries. The health department's Environmental Services unit is helping Community Planning and Economic Development assess 25 City owned vacant lots to screen the lots for contaminants to determine if they can be cleaned up and safely used for community gardens.

Funding awards

- The health department received a **\$1,296,549** grant from the **Minnesota Department of Health** to provide home visiting to first-time, low-income pregnant and postpartum women and their babies using the Nurse Family Partnership model. The grant will allow MVNA public health nurses to conduct home visits for 50 additional families through year 2020.
- The **Energy Foundation** is providing **\$30,000** in funding for the Energy Benchmarking Program as part of the City's climate action goals to drive high performance in the commercial market through energy and water benchmarking and disclosure. Coupled with other funding, this grant allows the health department to dedicate a full time staff to conduct outreach, data management, enforcement and energy usage reporting.
- The health department's Environmental Services unit also received a **\$20,000** grant from the **Mississippi Watershed Management Organization** to hire three seasonal environmental technicians to monitor the effectiveness of erosion-control measures at construction sites to better protect rivers and lakes from harmful sedimentation.
- The health department was awarded **\$2,400** from the **Minnesota Department of Human Services** to implement the Congratulate and Educate program to encourage tobacco retailers to follow "no sales to minors" laws. Youth from Northpoint Inc. and Indigenous Peoples Task Force will conduct tobacco compliance checks at up to 60 tobacco outlets in Minneapolis.

Gretchen Musicant, Health Commissioner

Minneapolis Health Department

250 South 4th Street, Room 510

Minneapolis, MN 55415

612-673-2301

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Community baby showers promote safe sleep



Minneapolis Healthy Start Community Action Network held three community baby showers to address a common cause of infant mortality called Sudden Unexpected Infant Death (SUID). During the baby showers, young parents and pregnant women learned how to avoid SUID through safe sleep practices such as the “ABCs of safe sleep:” The baby sleeps (A)lone and is placed on his/her (B)ack in a (C)rib. Participants received safe-sleep literature; a diaper bag with baby care essentials; and a Pack-N-Play crib. Over 45 pregnant women and their families attended the events. The baby showers were held at Shiloh Temple International Ministries, Northpoint, and Little Earth of United Tribes.

SBC Teen Health Empowerment Council awarded best violence prevention PSA

The School Based Clinics (SBC) program and its teen advisory group, Teen Health Empowerment Council, (THE Council), won first prize from the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women for their video about adolescent relationship abuse. THE Council was awarded \$300 for their video which defined types of relationship abuse; statistics on abuse among teens; and advice on healthy relationships. In addition to creating the video, THE Council and SBC staff conducted outreach activities in Minneapolis high schools to raise awareness about teen-dating violence.

Minneapolis 2040 visioning underway

Due in 2018, the City of Minneapolis kicked off the update for its next comprehensive plan called Minneapolis 2040 that shapes citywide policies and priorities for a unified vision for the city. The health department is working to integrate public health components into the plan and to ensure a health focus is included in a variety of areas such as housing, transportation, urban design and development, and parks and open spaces. The City is organizing multiple community engagement opportunities so the public can help shape the plan. For more information, please contact Haila Maze at 612-673-2098 or haila.maze@minneapolismn.gov.

Staff Updates: Living our Values Award Winners

Patrick Hanlon: Protect from Harm. Exploring innovative, proactive models for pollution prevention, Patrick’s drive and project management skills has resulted in one of the most innovative pollution reduction programs in the country: Green Business Cost Share Program.

Josh Peterson: Exercise Leadership and Quality Inspires our Work. After two years of diligent work to revive and improve the hospital-based Minneapolis Youth Violence Intervention Program (MY-VIP), Josh has made this program available to young people admitted to emergency departments for a violent injury to prevent retaliatory violence and gang wars.

Sonya Monzel: Quality Inspires Our Work. As the “go to” health inspector to review and approve plans for the majority of Minneapolis food establishments and body art facilities, Sonya examines more than 650 plans a year for health code requirements while drawing upon her knowledge of electrical, plumbing and building codes.

Dawn DiMartino. Quality Inspires our Work. As the initial contact for students at Southwest High School’s School Based Clinic, Dawn meets student needs in a timely manner by nimbly coordinating the complicated schedules of clinic providers.

New Employees:

Jose William Castellanos, Health Inspector I in the Lead and Healthy Homes Unit.

Sheng Yang, Health Inspector I, Lead and Healthy Homes, graduated from Tulane University in December 2015 with a Master of Public Health degree in Community Health Sciences.

Paul Rebman, former Vista worker was hired as a Public Health Specialist I with the Research Division.

Laura Rolseth, Customer Service Rep II, Food, Lodging, and Pools

New interns and seasonal staff:

Bengi Durgunoglu, Healthy Living student intern

Xao Vang, Emergency Preparedness intern

Kenya Urena Muro and Alex Kim, Food, Lodging and Pools Seasonal Health Technicians

Emily Goldman, Jackline Oswald, Mohamed Hadafof, Environmental Services Seasonal Health Technicians

Sam Wondimu, Urban Scholar, Maternal Child Health

For reasonable accommodations or alternative formats please contact Minneapolis Health Department 612-673-2301. People who are deaf or hard of hearing can use a relay service to call 311 at 612-673-3000. TTY users call 612-673-2157 or 612-673-2626.

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